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LANGUAGES (Languages, Computations,  
and Algorithms in Algebraic Systems)

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# FINITELY GENERATED SEMIGROUPS WITH SUCH A PRESENTATION THAT ALL THE CONGRUENCE CLASSES ARE CONTEXT-FREE LANGUAGES\*

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**Abstract** In this paper, we investigate finitely generated semigroups with such a presentation that all the congruence classes are context-free languages.

A monoid  $M$  is called *finitely generated* if there exists a finite set of  $X$  and there exists a surjective homomorphism of  $X^*$  to  $M$  which maps an empty word onto the identity element of  $M$ .

## 1. Presentations of monoids

**Definition 1 .** (1) Let  $X$  be finite alphabets and  $R$  a subset of  $X^* \times X^*$ . Then  $R$  is string-rewriting system.

(2) For  $u, v \in X^*$ ,  $(w_1, w_2) \in R$ ,  $uw_1v \Rightarrow_R uw_2v$ .

The congruence  $\mu_R$  on  $X^*$  generated by  $\Rightarrow_R$  is the Thue congruence defined by  $R$ .

(3) A monoid  $M$  is (finitely) presented if there exists a (finite) set of  $X$ , there exists a surjective homomorphism  $\phi$  of  $X^*$  to  $S$  and there exists a (finite) string-rewriting system  $R$  consisting of pairs of words over  $X$  such that the Thue congruence  $\mu_R$  is the congruence  $\{(w_1, w_2) \in X^* \times X^* \mid \phi(w_1) = \phi(w_2)\}$ .

**Definition 2 .** A monoid  $M$  has a presentation with [finite, regular, context-free] congruence classes if there exists a finite set  $X$  and there exists a surjective homomorphism  $\phi$  of  $X^+$  to  $M$  such that for each words  $w \in X^+$ ,  $\phi^{-1}(\phi(w))$  is a [finite, regular, context-free] language.

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\*This is an abstract and the paper will appear elsewhere.

## 2. Syntactic monoids of languages and finitely generated presented monoids

**Definition 3** . Let  $A$  be finite alphabets and  $A^*$  the set of words over  $A$ . A subset  $L$  of  $A^*$  is called a language. The syntactic congruence  $\sigma_L$  on  $A^*$  is defined by  $w\sigma_L w'$  ( $w, w' \in A^*$ ) if and only if  $\{(x, y) \in A^* \times A^* \mid xwy \in L\} = \{(x, y) \in A^* \times A^* \mid xw'y \in L\}$ . Then a factor monoid  $A^*/\sigma_L$  is called the syntactic monoid of  $L$ .

**Example 1** .  $A = \{a_1, \dots, a_n\}$ . For any  $w = b_1b_2 \dots b_r$ , let  $w^R = b_r \dots b_2b_1$ . Let  $L = \{ww^R \mid w \in A^*\}$ . Then

- (1)  $L$  is a context-free language which is not accepted by any deterministic pushdown automata.
  - (2)  $\text{Syn}(L)$  is the free monoid  $A^*$  on  $A$ .
- That is,  $\phi : A^* \rightarrow \text{Syn}(L) (w \mapsto \sigma_L w)$  is an isomorphism.

**Definition 4** . Let  $M$  be a monoid and  $m$  an element of  $M$ . The syntactic congruence  $\sigma_m$  on  $M$  is defined by  $s\sigma_m t$  ( $s, t \in M$ ) if and only if  $\{(x, y) \in M \times M \mid xsy = m\} = \{(x, y) \in M \times M \mid xty = m\}$ .

The factor monoid  $M/\sigma_m$  is called the syntactic monoid of  $M$  at  $m$ .

**Lemma 1**. Let  $L$  be a language of  $X^*$ . Then  $L$  is a union of  $\sigma_L$ -classes in  $X^*$ .

**Proposition 1**. Let  $L$  be a language of  $A^*$  and  $L^c$  the complement of the set  $L$  in  $A^*$ . Then  $\text{Syn}(L) = \text{Syn}(L^c)$ .

**Theorem 1** . Let  $L$  be a language of  $X^*$ . Then the following are equivalent :

- (1)  $L$  is a  $\sigma_L$ -class in  $X^*$ .
- (2)  $xLy \cap L \neq \emptyset ((x, y \in X^*) \Rightarrow xLy \subseteq L$ .
- (3)  $L$  is an inverse image  $\phi^{-1}(m)$  of a homomorphism  $\phi$  of  $X^*$  to a monoid  $M$ .

**Theorem 2** . ( Shoji [S]) Let  $M$  be a finitely generated monoid and  $\phi$  a surjective homomorphism of  $A^*$  to  $M$ . For  $m$  an element of  $M$ , let  $L = \phi^{-1}(m)$ .

Then the syntactic monoid  $\text{Syn}(L) = A^*/\sigma_L$  of  $L$  is isomorphic to the syntactic monoid  $M/\sigma_m$  of  $M$  at  $m$ .

## 3. Finitely generated semigroups with such a presentation that all the congruence classes are context-free languages

**Theorem 3 .** ( Shoji [S]) *A finitely generated semigroup  $S$  has a presentation with regular congruence classes if and only if for any  $s \in S$ ,  $S/\sigma_s$  is a finite semigroup.*

**Theorem 4 .** ( Shoji [S]) *Let  $S$  be a finitely generated semigroup.*

*Then  $S$  has a presentation with finite congruence classes if and only if the following are satisfied :*

- (1)  *$S$  has no idempotent.*
- (2) *For any  $s \in S$ ,  $S/\sigma_s$  is a finite nilpotent semigroup with a zero element 0.*

**Example 2 .** *Let  $A = \{a, b\}$  and a context-free language  $L = \{a^n b^n, b^n a^n | n \in \mathbb{N}\}$ . Then all of  $\sigma_L$ -classes are  $\{1\}$ ,  $\{ab\}$ ,  $\{a^n\}$ ,  $\{b^n\}$ ,  $c_n = \{a^{p+n} b^p | p \in \mathbb{N}\}$ ,  $d_n = \{a^q b^{q+n} | q \in \mathbb{N}\}$ ,  $\{ba\}$ ,  $e_n = \{b^p a^{p+n} | p \in \mathbb{N}\}$ ,  $f_n = \{b^{q+n} a^q | q \in \mathbb{N}\}$ . Hence  $\text{Syn}(L)$  has a regular cross-section. Also,  $\text{Syn}(L) - \{1\}$  is a  $\mathcal{D}$ -class.  $\text{Syn}(L)$  has a representation with context-free congruence classes.*

**Example 3 .** *Let  $A = \{a, b\}$  and  $G : S \rightarrow SSS|aSb|\epsilon$ . Then  $G$  is a context-free grammar and its accepted language  $L(G)$  equals to  $\{a^n b^n | n \geq 0\}$ .*

*The syntactic monoid  $\text{Syn}(L(G))$  has the presentation  $A^*/\{ab = 1\}$ . It is easily seen that  $\text{Syn}(L(G))$  has a representation with context-free congruence classes.*

**Example 4 .** *Let  $A = \{a_1, \dots, a_r\} \cup \{b_1, \dots, b_r\}$  and  $F(A)$  the free inverse semigroup over  $A$ . Then there exists the canonical map  $\phi : A^* \rightarrow F(A)$  ( $b_i \mapsto a_i^{-1}$ ) such that for each  $w \in F(A)$ ,  $\phi^{-1}(w)$  is not a context-free language. Thus, Free inverse semigroups do not have a representation with context-free congruence classes.*

**Remark.** Even a monogenic free inverse smigroup do not have any representation with context-free congruence classes.

**Result 1 .** *For every finitely generated group  $G$ , there exists a language  $L$  of  $A^*$  such that  $G$  is isomorphic to  $\text{Syn}(L)$ .*

**Result 2 .** ( Muller and Schupp [MS]) (1) *Every finitely generated virtually free group  $G$  has a (monoid)-representation with context-free congruence classes.*

(2) *Conversely, if a finitely generated group  $G$  has a (monoid)- representation with context-free congruence classes then  $G$  is a virtually free group.*

**Theorem 5** . *Let  $S$  be a semigroup having a representation with context-free congruence classes. If  $S$  is a completely (0-) simple semigroup, then both the  $\mathcal{L}$ -classes and the  $\mathcal{R}$ -classes of  $S$  is finite and the maximal subgroup is virtually free.*

**Theorem 6** . *Let  $S$  be a finitely generated submonoids of a virtually free group  $G$ . Then  $S$  is a cancellative monoid having a representation with context-free congruence classes.*

**Example 5** . *Let  $A$  be finite alphabets containing  $\{a, b, c\}$ . Let  $R = \{(acb, c)\}$  be a string-rewriting system on  $A^*$ . The monoid  $M = A^*/\mu_R$  has a representation with context-free congruence classes. Moreover,  $M$  is a cancellative monoid which is embedded in a group  $G = \langle a, b, c \mid c^{-1}ac = b^{-1} \rangle$  which is not virtually context-free.*

**Theorem 7** . *Let  $M_1, M_2$  be a finitely generated monoids having a presentation with context-free congruence classes. Then the free product  $M_1 * M_2$  of  $M_1, M_2$  has a presentation with context-free congruence classes.*

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